

## Learning How to Suffer

**Isaiah 53:4-6 HCSB** Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. (5) But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. (6) We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.

### 1. Jesus suffered for the benefit of others.

- **Isaiah 53:4-6 HCSB** Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. (5) But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. (6) We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.

Often, we are willing to suffer for our own benefit but let us learn to suffer for the benefit of others.

### 2. Jesus suffered even though He was righteous and innocent.

- **Luke 23:13-16 HCSB** Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, (14) and said to them, "You have brought me this man as one who subverts the people. But in fact, after examining Him in your presence, I have found no grounds to charge this man with those things you accuse Him of. (15) Neither has Herod, because he sent Him back to us. Clearly, He has done nothing to deserve death. (16) Therefore I will have Him whipped and *then* release Him."

Often, we complain that we face suffering unjustly even though we are faithful and godly but let us remember that Jesus also faced it.

### 3. Jesus was hated without cause.

- **John 15:24-25 HCSB** If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would not have sin. Now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father. (25) But *this happened* so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: **They hated Me for no reason.**

Often, we wonder what evil we have done to face so much hatred but let us remember that Jesus who did so much good was also hated thus.

### 4. Jesus suffered at the hands of His own people.

- **John 18:35 HCSB** "I'm not a Jew, am I?" Pilate replied. "Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?"

Often, our suffering can be caused by our own people and not by strangers. Jesus was persecuted not by the Romans but by the Jews.

### 5. Jesus faced false accusations and false witnesses.

- **Matthew 26:59-60 HCSB** The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so they could put Him to death. (60) But they could not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two who came forward

Often, we may face false accusations and false witnesses but we are only following in the footsteps of Jesus.

### 6. Jesus was silent before the false accusations.

- [Matthew 27:12-14 HCSB](#) And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He didn't answer. (13) Then Pilate said to Him, "Don't You hear how much they are testifying against You?" (14) But He didn't answer him on even one charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Often, when we face false accusations we may want to defend ourselves vehemently but Jesus was silent and committed it to God.

### **7. Jesus was treated like a criminal.**

- [Matthew 26:55-56 HCSB](#) At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal, to capture Me? Every day I used to sit, teaching in the temple complex, and you didn't arrest Me. (56) But all this has happened so that the prophetic Scriptures would be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted Him and ran away.

Often, we may feel that we are treated like criminals and not like God's children. Remember Jesus was crucified between thieves.

### **8. "He saved others himself He could not save"**

- [Matthew 27:42 HCSB](#) "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! He is the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him.

Often, we may be mocked like Jesus. We help others and solve their problems but sometimes we are unable to solve our own problems.

### **9. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**

- [Matthew 27:47 HCSB](#) When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling for Elijah!"

Often, we may cry out in the same way but let us remember that the crucifixion was followed by the resurrection.

### **10. Jesus was betrayed by His own disciple.**

- [Matthew 26:21 HCSB](#) While they were eating, He said, "I assure you: One of you will betray Me."

Often, we may be betrayed by those close to us and who have benefitted much from us. Jesus was betrayed by one whom He had trained.

### **11. Jesus was plotted against by religious leaders.**

- [Matthew 26:3-5 HCSB](#) Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, (4) and they conspired to arrest Jesus in a treacherous way and kill Him. (5) "Not during the festival," they said, "so there won't be rioting among the people."

Often, we may face attacks from those who are supposed to lead people in the ways of God. It was the priests who wanted to kill Jesus.

### **12. Jesus faced intense emotional and mental agony.**

- [Luke 22:44 HCSB](#) Being in anguish, He prayed more fervently, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.]

Often, we may face agonizing periods of great suffering but no one has faced the agony of Jesus whose sweat came out as blood.

### **14. Jesus suffered because of the jealousy of people.**

- [Mark 15:10 HCSB](#) For he knew it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed Him over.

Often, we may face suffering purely because of the jealousy of people. Pilate discerned that the Jewish leaders were jealous of Jesus.

**15. Jesus was deserted by everyone when He faced danger.**

- [Mark 14:50 HCSB](#) Then they all deserted Him and ran away.

Often, we may feel left alone when we are in danger. Jesus was deserted by everyone when he was arrested and faced His enemies alone.

**15. Jesus was spat upon, hit, and slapped.**

- [Matthew 26:67-68 HCSB](#) Then they spit in His face and beat Him; others slapped Him (68) and said, "Prophecy to us, Messiah! Who hit You?"

Often, we may face abuse and pain but remember Jesus the Son of God was spat upon and buffeted.

**16. Jesus was mocked and ridiculed.**

- [Matthew 27:29-31 HCSB](#) They twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and placed a reed in His right hand. And they knelt down before Him and mocked Him: "Hail, King of the Jews!" (30) Then they spit at Him, took the reed, and kept hitting Him on the head. (31) When they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe, put His clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

Often, we may be mocked and humiliated and we may be unable to stop it. Jesus was mocked and ridiculed by the soldiers.

**17. Jesus was reviled by those who passed by.**

- [Matthew 27:39-43 HCSB](#) Those who passed by were yelling insults at Him, shaking their heads (40) and saying, "The One who would demolish the sanctuary and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" (41) In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him and said, (42) "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! He is the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. (43) He has put His trust in God; let God rescue Him now--if He wants Him! For He said, 'I am God's Son.'"

Often, we may be reviled even by irrelevant people who are not connected with us in any way. Even those who passed by reviled Jesus.

**18. Jesus was rejected and a wicked man was chosen instead.**

- [Matthew 27:20-23 HCSB](#) The chief priests and the elders, however, persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to execute Jesus. (21) The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" "Barabbas!" they answered. (22) Pilate asked them, "What should I do then with Jesus, who is called Messiah?" They all answered, "Crucify Him!" (23) Then he said, "Why? What has He done wrong?" But they kept shouting, "Crucify Him!" all the more.

Often, we may face rejection and someone with dubious credentials may be preferred. A murderer was chosen instead of Jesus.

**19. Jesus had a painful and agonizing death.**

- [John 19:16-17 HCSB](#) So then, because of them, he handed Him over to be crucified. Therefore they took Jesus away. (17) Carrying His own cross, He went out to what is called Skull Place, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Often, we wish for peaceful end without any suffering but let us remember that Jesus died in great agony and suffering.

**20. “If they do this to the green tree, what about the dry tree?”**

- **Luke 23:31 HCSB** For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"
- **John 15:18-20 HCSB** "If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love *you* as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. (20) Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours.

Often, we may wonder why we face so much suffering but Jesus already predicted that this would happen to His followers also.

**21. “Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”**

- **Luke 23:34 HCSB** [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."] And they divided His clothes and cast lots.

Often, we may be tempted to retaliate when attacked but Jesus wants us to forgive those who persecute us in their ignorance.